

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clarke-Palmore House
other names/site number Clarke Home (WPA Inventory); DHR No. 043-0085

2. Location

street & number 904 McCoul Street ☐ not for publication
city or town Richmond ☒ vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Henrico code 087 zip code 23231

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____ Date _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____ Date _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Domestic	Single dwelling
Domestic	Secondary structure
Domestic	Secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Work in Progress	House museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	metal
other	

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐AProperty is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐BProperty is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒CProperty embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐DProperty has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐Aowned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐Bremoved from its original location.
- ☐Ca birthplace or a grave.
- ☐Da cemetery.
- ☐Ea reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐Fa commemorative property.
- ☐Gless than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Significant Dates

1819

1855

1910

Cultural Affiliations

Period of Significance

1819-1953

Architect/Builder

Unknown (1819) / John W. Clarke (1855)

/ John W. Palmore (1910)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐previously listed in the National Register
- ☐previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐Other State agency
- ☐Federal agency
- ☐Local government
- ☐University
- ☐Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property:10.25

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	287183	4153848	3	18	287346	4153590
2	18	287361	4153856	4	18	287173	4153592

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/titleSusan Reed Smither, Architectural Historian

organizationCommonwealth ArchitectsdateJanuary 29, 2004

street & number101 Shockoe Slip, 3rd Floortelephone(804) 648-5040

city or townRichmondstateVAzip code23219

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/titleCounty of Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks (contact J. Wesley Malcomb, Director)

street & numberPO Box 27032telephone(804) 501-5104

city or townRichmondstateVAzip code23273

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Clarke-Palmore House
Henrico County, VA**

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Narrative Description

Summary Description

The Clarke-Palmore House in eastern Henrico County, Virginia, is a two-story three-bay brick dwelling that was constructed in two stages. It began as a one-and-one-half-story dwelling built in 1819. It was raised to two full stories in 1855. A one-story frame rear addition with wraparound porch was added in 1910. The present one-bay front porch is a mid-20th-century replacement of a Greek Revival full-width porch. Two significant brick outbuildings are adjacent to the main house. An early-19th-century kitchen was converted into use as a barn in the early 20th century. A mid-19th-century smoke house was converted into a pump house also in the early 20th century.

Detailed Description

The Clarke-Palmore House is located on Marion Hill approximately one mile down Route 5 south of Richmond and 1/4 mile east on McCoul Street. The southern edge of the property along McCoul Street is level open lawn with a small field to the west and a large field to the east (3.17 acres for these areas). An elevated grassy driveway approaches the house on center and then returns to grade to the west of two notable mature osage orange trees which frame the front of the house. The site drops off sharply behind the house and outbuildings and the remaining 7.08 acres of the property continue to descend through the woods to the boundary of Almond Creek to the north.

The Clarke-Palmore House presently appears as a brick Greek Revival, two-story, side-gabled dwelling with a one-story wood frame rear addition with wraparound porch. The original six-panel front door and three-light transom is located in the first of the front elevation's three bays. The present porch over the entry is a generic Colonial Revival front-gable one-story porch from the mid-20th century with square wood posts and pilasters, standing seam metal roof, gutters and downspouts. A pattern of repairs to the brickwork across the front elevation indicates the former presence of a full-width one-story porch which was removed in the mid-20th century due to deterioration. A clear change in brick quality and coursing appears from the first to the second stories.

The house was originally a Federal one-and-a-half-story house of finely constructed American bond with 3 to 5 stretcher courses between header courses built in 1819 under the ownership of Daniel Higgenbotham of Richmond. The second story is American bond with 6 to 7 stretcher courses between header courses and is of less refined construction. It was added by the second owner, John W. Clarke, in 1855 when he purchased the property. The house has a corbeled brick cornice, flat brick arches over the five front and two rear windows, an interior end chimney serving both stories, and a V-crimp metal roof. The original windows of the main house have been replaced, presumably when the addition was constructed, as they are all matching nine over nine windows. The present shutters are mid-20th century. The rear clapboard addition, built in 1910 by John W. Palmore, houses the kitchen and dining room. Doors on all sides access a wraparound porch. Currently the porch floor is being reconstructed and its rotten beams are being replaced. The original chamfered 4" x 4" columns survive and will be reinstalled. The addition's hipped roof extends into a low-pitched shed roof over the surrounding porch and is standing seam metal with a small ornamental cupola vent.

The interior of the main house retains much of its original finishes, including four-panel doors and hardware, floors of varying width boards, a simple wood stair railing, fire surrounds and plaster on the second floor. A second-floor bedroom was converted into a bathroom ca. 1940. The former back door of the side passage was infilled and a first-floor foyer closet added along the back wall in the 20th century. The house is in stable condition, with the exception of the second-floor bedroom ceiling plaster and the aforementioned porch under repair.

Two intact outbuildings are situated adjacent to the main house to form a small complex of 19th-century domestic structures: An early 19th-century, one-story American-bond brick kitchen with three stretcher courses between header courses, a V-crimp metal roof and a corbeled brick cornice sits to the east of the main house. The kitchen's interior chimney was removed and the

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Detailed Description (cont')

structure was converted to a barn in the early 20th century. Stalls and feed bins are still present on the interior. The former chimney's size and location are distinguishable by hearth framing beneath the present wood floor, a void through the loft floor along the rear wall and an intact hearth in the loft, as well as cut ceiling rafters where the chimney narrowed and exited the structure. Former windows and doors have been infilled with brick or boarded over. Patched loft floor boards indicate the location of the former stair to the loft. The kitchen/barn requires stabilization and water infiltration prevention measures in order to prevent the loss of historic materials.

A mid-19th-century American-bond brick pump house with 5 to 7 stretcher courses between header courses and an irregularly hipped, hinged V-crimp metal roof sits to the north of the main house. This former smoke house was converted into a pump house in the early 20th century by modifying the roof to open up to a rain barrel cistern and by the installation of an ornate pump to the west side. The smoke house/pump house is in good condition.

Also present near the northwest corner of the house is a noncontributing prefabricated wooden workshop structure, which was added to the site in the 1960's. As it is not architecturally significant and encroaches upon the intact character of the historic structures, the present owner plans to remove this structure.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

The Clarke-Palmore House and its two outbuildings present an intact complex of 19th-century structures which retain the character of an early Henrico County family farm. The buildings also demonstrate the adaptation of structures over time for the changing needs of the occupants. The two-story, three-bay brick house was built in two phases, 1819 and 1855, and the nineteenth-century kitchen and smokehouse were both adapted for new uses as a barn and pumphouse, respectively, in the early 20th century. Now at the edge of a neighborhood, the property is a reminder of Henrico County's agricultural past.

Criteria Statement

The Clarke-Palmore House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because the farm represents, with clarity of style and construction, Henrico County building practices of the 19th and early 20th century.

Historical Overview

Deeds pertaining to the land upon which the Clarke-Palmore House is located have been found dating to 1793. The undeveloped property had passed through several owners, including Neil McCoul (DB 11, p204) for whom the street was later named, until Daniel Higgenbotham (DB 15, p74) of the City of Richmond purchased Lot #6 on Marion Hill in 1815. As land tax records indicate, it was in 1819 that Higgenbotham constructed what is now the first story of the Clarke-Palmore House. The brick kitchen (later barn) to the east of the house was likely constructed around this period, as well. Records indicated multiple structures were present under Higgenbotham's ownership and the character and construction of the kitchen outbuilding supports this time period.

Higgenbotham owned the land until his death in 1855, when it was purchased by John W. Clarke (DB 66, p298) of Henrico County. Land tax records indicate that Clarke added the second floor immediately after purchasing the house. Census records indicate he was married, had four children, and list his occupation as farmer and then factory worker (Tredegar Iron Works) up to the Civil War, when he served four years in Lynchburg. The bedroom for the two daughters was what is now the second-floor bathroom and the two sons were relegated to the outdoor kitchen loft. The brick smoke house (later pump house) located to the north of the house likely dates from the time of Clarke's ownership. The property remained in the Clarke family and was actively farmed through the ownership of both John W. Clarke, Jr. and his son-in-law, John W. Palmore.

Palmore constructed the rear one-story frame kitchen/dining addition with wraparound porch in 1910. It was also during the Palmore period when the outdoor kitchen was converted into a barn by removing the chimney, altering window and door apertures, and inserting stalls. Soot is still visible on the underside of the loft floor joists and the former loft hearth is still evident. The conversion of the smoke house into a pump house was also during this period. The hinged roof opens to reveal a rainwater collection barrel and an ornate pump is located under an adjacent shed roof. Additional wooden outbuildings that no longer survive were located to the west of the pump house/smoke house. These included a corncrib, hog pen, and chicken coop. Horses and cows were sent down the hill to the pasture at creek level during the day and returned to the barn at night. The upper land around the house was farmed to support the family.

The property was passed from Palmore to his daughter, Vera Clarke Palmore Morton, a Henrico County schoolteacher for over 40 years. Mrs. Morton married in 1946 and she and her husband made alterations to the house including the addition of the second-floor bathroom, the brick infilling of the back door to create a foyer closet, and the removal of the full-width front porch. In 1996 Mrs. Morton donated the property to Henrico County for public use.

Oral history associated with the Clarke-Palmore House claims that it was used as a signal station during the Civil War and that

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Historical Overview (Cont')

messages were beamed out of the second-story bedroom's north window to the Capital by means of a heliograph or hand-held mirrors. Although the property is situated centrally between Inner Defense Line Batteries No. 1, 2 and 3, was in the vicinity of fighting in eastern Henrico, and is geographically positioned so that it would have had a view to the Capital, no written documentation has been found to support the claim that the Clarke-Palmore House was directly involved in the Civil War as a signalling station, headquarters or other function.

A reconnaissance-level archaeological survey conducted by Gray & Pape in July 2003 did not reveal significant archaeological findings other than to support the farming history of the property. Of the fifty shovel tests and five trenches, the most significant items recovered were from a trench dug just west of the kitchen/barn. In that trench, Trench #2, 19th- and 20th-century fragments of plow blades, nails, horseshoes, pottery and glass were recovered. A copy of the final "Archaeological Survey of the Clarke-Palmore House Property" is filed with the DHR archives in the Central Office in Richmond.

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Major Bibliographical References

Garner, Benjamin G. "Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory." September 1937. Copy available from the Library of Virginia.

Gray & Pape. "Archaeological Survey of the Clarke-Palmore House Property, Henrico, County, Virginia, Final Report." October 2003. Copy available at VDHR.

Henrico County Annual Report 1998-99. Copy available from the County of Henrico.

Henrico County Deed Books and Land Tax Records. Microfilm available at the Library of Virginia.

Interview with Mrs. Vera Clarke Palmore Morton on 8/29/03 by Susan Reed Smither, Architectural Historian. Copy of notes available at VDHR.

Interview notes with Mrs. Vera Clarke Palmore Morton on 11/9/95 by Sue Hanson and Kim Sicola. Copy of notes available from the County of Henrico.

Michie Map. 1865. Copy available at the Library of Virginia.

Morton, Vera Clark Palmore. Self-published brochure on her home. Date unknown. Copy available at VDHR.

O'Dell, Jeff M. "Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form." 1975 with later revisions. VDHR #043-0085.

O'Dell, Jeff M. Inventory of Early Architecture and Historic and Archaeological Sites, County of Henrico. Richmond: County of Henrico, 1976.

Smead, S. E. "Virginia Department of Historic Resources Building Survey Form, Reconnaissance Level." October 1992. VDHR #043-0085.

Wagner, Wendy. "Lasting Legacy." Richmond Times Dispatch, March 1999.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Clarke-Palmore House property is identified as Henrico County Tax Parcel # 800-709-0533 (for the upper 3.17 acres on which the house and outbuildings directly sit) and Parcel # 800-709-1174 (for the 7.08 acres of lower woodland).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries selected reflect the present legal boundaries of the property. They encompass the original 6.4 acres of land that comprised the property in 1815, as well as the lower pasture land later acquired by the Palmore family.